

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 45 of 1881,

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th November 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	30th October 1881.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	31st ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing	671	
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296	1st November 1881.
11	"Chāruvartā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	30th October 1881.
13	"Dūt"	Calcutta	.....	31st ditto.
14	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	4th November 1881.
15	"Halisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta	.....	29th October 1881.
16	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
17	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	29th ditto.
18	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
19	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
20	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	31st ditto.
21	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....
22	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	28th ditto.
23	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Beauleah	.....	25th ditto.
24	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	
25	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	
26	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	2nd November 1881.
27	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	31st October 1881.
28	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing	.....
29	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	29th ditto.
30	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
31	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commilla	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	28th October to 3rd November 1881.
33	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	28th October to 4th ditto.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	29th October to 3rd ditto.
35	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	
36	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	31st October to 5th ditto.
37	"Samāchār Sudāhbarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	29th October 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
49	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	27th ditto.
40	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	20th ditto.
41	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	31st ditto.
42	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	29th ditto.
PERSIAK.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	28th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto	.....	2nd November 1881.
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
45	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

MEDINI,
October 29th, 1881.

1. THE *Medini*, of the 29th October, observes that a fresh outbreak of indigo riots may shortly be apprehended at Bagri in Midnapore. The Assistant Manager of the Indigo Concern at Bagri, Mr. Gregson, on the occasion of a recent visit to Maheshpore—a visit undertaken for the purpose of selecting lands for indigo cultivation—found that the ryots were all unwilling to sow indigo on the lands comprised in their holdings. He was greatly enraged to find that almost every piece of land selected by him was declared to be a part of some ryot's *jote*, and not *khas*. Unable to restrain his anger any longer, he at last assaulted with his horse-whip a Mahomedan cultivator who asserted that a particular piece of land was a part of his holding. The assault brought about ten or twelve men to the scene, who began to pelt stones at Mr. Gregson. At this time Mr. Gregson left the place with his two servants. The ryots have since combined and sworn on the Koran that they will not sow indigo on their lands. The planters have brought a suit against the ryots, and the Magistrate has consequently had to hold a local enquiry.

MEDINI.

2. The same paper asks Government to re-establish a permanent Deputy Magistrate's Court at Garbeta in Bagri. The transfer of the court from Garbeta to Ghatal was not a wise measure. Bagri abounds in jungle, and is infested with dacoits. The local zemindars and indigo-planters are as a class rapacious, and oppress their tenantry. Lawless acts are frequently committed by them. It is notorious that since the abolition of the sub-divisional office at Garbeta, indigo riots have become very frequent. In these circumstances, it is extremely necessary that a Deputy Magistrate should be permanently appointed to Garbeta. This is not likely to entail any additional expenditure upon Government. The travelling and other allowances of the officer who now periodically holds his court at Garbeta costs a good round sum. A permanent Deputy Magistrate would be able to take up the registration work besides his own, and the commission fees, together with the sum now expended on account of the travelling allowances, would not fall short of the salary of a Deputy Magistrate.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
October 29th, 1881.

3. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sulabha Samachar*, of the 29th October, headed "Lord Ripon's new scheme." We have repeatedly said that the day of India's prosperity has dawned since the Liberals came into power, and Lord Ripon became head of the Indian Administration. We have heard it said for a long time past that the object of British rule in this country is to teach self-government to natives; but many were sceptical as to whether England really desired to give effect to this view. The despatch of the Viceroy to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has therefore exceedingly gratified us. We are of course aware that all efforts to carry out the instructions contained in the despatch must, for some time to come, be necessarily attended with some inconvenience and irregularity; but we are thankful to the Empress of India for this, that the old stereotyped system of administration will now be swept away, and in its place will be inaugurated a better and improved method of Government.

HAHISAHAR
PRAKASHIKA,
October 29th, 1881.

4. The *Hahisahar Prakashika*, of the 29th October, remarks, in reference to the decision passed by the Lieutenant-Governor in the case of Mr. O'Donnell, that, considering the faults and shortcomings of this subordinate official, the treatment he has received is doubtless a lenient one. His removal from the service alone would have met the requirements of justice. The present case reminds one of that of Baboo

Mr. O'Donnell and the Government
of Bengal.

Surendranath Banerji. In justice it behoves Government to consider the grounds on which the decision in that case was passed.

5. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 30th October, cordially approves of the sentiments of the recent Resolution of the Government of India on the decentralization scheme, and expresses the hope that effect will be given to them without delay (see paragraph 16 of our last Report.)

DACCA PRAKASH,
October 30th, 1891.

Government Resolution on the Decentralization Scheme.

6. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Barapeta in Assam, protests against the recent imposition by the Assam Government of a duty on *bhang*, which grows abundantly in the jungle of this part of the country. This action on the part of Government appears to have been dictated by a desire of increasing the sale of spirituous liquor. It is, however, a mistake to suppose that the abundance of *bhang* in the jungle in any way interferes with the consumption of liquor. The inhabitants are mostly followers of Shiv, and are strongly prohibited by their religion to use wine. The circular order therefore issued by the local Government, declaring that all persons having more than one *tola* of *bhang* in their possession at one time shall be liable to punishment, will be productive of grave oppression on the masses.

DACCA PRAKASH.

7. The *Som Prakash*, of the 31st October, refers to the change which has come over the views of the Government on the question of educating the people of India. Formerly the rulers were always found anxious to confer the benefit of a high English education upon natives; but now they seem even to dread the idea. It has therefore been proposed that in the Punjab high education should be conducted through the medium of the vernaculars. Government evidently looks with no favourable eye upon the results of English education in Bengal. Educated Bengalis have ceased to look upon Englishmen with a feeling of dread, and always clamour for rights which Government promised to confer on them. But this circumstance however disagreeable, is not likely to lead to any injurious consequences, inasmuch as the people of these provinces are of a peaceful, loyal, and timid disposition. The case would be different with the sturdy and courageous races of the Punjab. English education would open their eyes, and not improbably lead to troubles. It is not, however, easy to see how Government means to overcome the difficulty. Ignorance is a fruitful source of many evils; nor is it possible to conceal for any long time the truth from a person merely by blind-folding him.

SOM PRAKASH,
October 31st, 1891.

The Punjab University.

8. The same paper dwells in a long article on the poverty of the agricultural classes in this country, and on the difficulty of obtaining loans at a low rate of interest. The idea therefore of establishing a number of agricultural banks, which has been started by Sir David Wedderburn, deserves consideration. The Editor is of opinion that Government should give effect to this scheme by establishing a head bank at Calcutta, or some other place, and branch banks throughout the country, where the business should be conducted by the postmasters. The rate of interest should be low, and native capital alone should be employed for this purpose.

SOM PRAKASH.

9. We extract the following observations from another article in the same paper:—Lord Ripon is truly a man of liberal views and has succeeded in winning the goodwill of the people. To make people happy seems to be the chief object of his life, and justice the chief aim of his administration. There is now some ground for the hope that, if he were permitted to remain in India, and in the enjoyment of health for some time longer,

Representative government for natives.

SOM PRAKASH.

the dead bones of India would again quicken into life. The letter which the Viceroy has written to the Government of Bengal on the subject of representative government in this country is one which bears evidence of neither a half-hearted nor of an ostentatious spirit. In that letter he recommends the introduction of the elective system of municipal government with his whole heart. Even if he did not do anything else, this noble act of His Lordship will make Lord Ripon's name ever memorable in this country. He has touched the true key to the future prosperity of India. The Editor then proceeds to expatiate on the necessity and feasibility of extending the scheme of financial independence, and the consequent responsibility of District and Municipal Committees in the administration of local funds.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
October 31st, 1881.

10. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 31st October, in noticing the comments made by the *Englishman* newspaper on Lord Ripon's Resolution on the decentralization scheme, is not surprised to find that they are so unfavourable. On the contrary, they are worthy of the Editor of the *Englishman*, who has always shown himself to be an enemy of the Bengalis. Unfortunately for the Editor, the liberal-minded Lord Ripon is now the Viceroy. The *Englishman* points out the shortcomings of the existing municipalities in this country, apparently forgetful of the circumstances to which the inefficiency of most of the Native Commissioners is due. These are briefly the almost absolute power exercised by the official Chairmen, and the utter absence of independence in the nominated Commissioners. This is a matter which should receive careful consideration from Lord Ripon.

11. The same paper directs the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to a fresh outbreak of indigo riots in the district of Chumparun in Behar. The case of Gadar Sahai, zemindar of that district, and of Mr. Gale, of the Barra Indigo Concern, is then described at length.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

12. The same paper contains an article on Sir Richard Garth's note on the proposal to reduce the salaries of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court. While agreeing with the Chief Justice in the opinion that the salaries of the Judges should not be reduced, the Editor regrets to notice that Sir Richard Garth has not in his note said one word expressive of disapproval as regards the proposal to reduce the salaries of the Native Judges.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

13. The same paper remarks, in reference to Mr. O'Donnell's case, that the courage and independence of that officer shown by his publication of the Black and the Behar pamphlets have proved his ruin. These qualities in a subordinate officer are highly unpalatable to superior Indian officials. Mr. O'Donnell's appeal to the Viceroy is not likely to do him much good. The Lieutenant-Governor has framed the charge against him with much skill.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

14. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 31st October, remarks that, as a result of the enforcement of the Arms Act in this country, the number of wild animals destroyed last year was less than that recorded for previous years. It is, however, gratifying to observe that Lord Ripon has directed all Magistrates to grant more freely licenses to keep guns to the inhabitants of localities which are infested with wild animals.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
October 31st, 1881.

15. The same paper reproduces, with comments of its own, the observations made by a writer in a recent number of *Fraser's Magazine* on the subject of

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

Salaries of Civilians.

the salaries of the Indian Civilians. These salaries are very high, and should be reduced.

16. The *Sahachar*, of the 2nd November, observes that, not being in possession of all the papers in this case, it is impossible to express a final opinion on its merits. The Secretary Mr. Cockerell's letter, however, establishes what the lawyers call a *prima facie* case against Mr. O'Donnell. The chief fault of Sir Ashley Eden seems to be that his decisions on important public questions lack judicial impartiality, and savour of partizanship. The publication of an account of Mr. O'Donnell's previous official career shows that Sir Ashley Eden has conceived a dislike for him. His Honor should have remembered the observations he had made on Mr. O'Donnell's pamphlet before the indigo-planters.

SAHACHAR,
November 2nd, 1881.

17. The same paper deprecates the undue haste which is being shown by persons interested in the matter to have the Assam Emigration Bill passed into law. The subject, however, is one which should receive protracted consideration, the more particularly as certain sections of the Bill, if passed in their present form, will have the effect of making the lot of the labourers more miserable than ever. As it is, recruits are frequently duped by the wily recruiters in spite of the precautions adopted by Government. The work of the recruiters will be rendered easier if the examination of the recruits be henceforth held in every division instead of in every district.

SAHACHAR.

18. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 29th October, observes that the people of this country have been exceedingly gratified to find that Lord Ripon has in one of his recent communications to the Government of Bengal favoured the extension of self-government among the natives.

URDU GUIDE,
October 29th, 1881.

19. The *Behar Bandhu*, of the 27th October, fully approves of the sentiments of the recent Resolution of Government on the decentralization scheme, and remarks, in reference to the proposal to relieve municipalities of all expenditure incurred on account of the police, that it is very wisely made. The success of the scheme now propounded will, however, depend on the wisdom exercised in the selection of Municipal Commissioners.

BEHAR BANDHU,
October 27th, 1881.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 5th November 1881.

